

Jesus Bible Study Series

Week #4 (Chapter Seven)
It is Best to Rest

HMR
Men's Bible Study

Main Idea

In the last lesson we discussed that legalism is diametrically opposed to grace. In this lesson we find that “striving” is the exact opposite trusting in God’s provisions. Our American culture is so entrenched in the pursuit of success that it is hard to imagine living apart from it. Americans embody the life of the striver. Unfortunately, to pursue Christ we must “unlearn” striver tendencies and learn to more fully trust in the Lord’s provisions for our lives. What we will find in this pursuit is a level of peace that can be found in no other way. As the old hymn states, *Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

Deep Thoughts

For many of us the pursuit of accomplishments starts at an early age. We find a disdain for failure and build our lives in pursuit of success. Some of us even strategically avoid areas where we know we are destined to fail. By the time we are in our teens our lives are fueled by the conquest for success. Our “trophies of accomplishment” include athletic prowess, intellectual domination, relationship conquest, and the pursuit of popularity. Even though this lifestyle is exhausting, we find ourselves on a treadmill spinning at 30 miles per hour with no off switch in sight. If this were only a season of life that could be attributed to immaturity it would be one thing, but the real danger lies in the foundation it builds for the later years of life. The life of the “striver” is bad enough in terms of being a mere human being, but for the Believer this lifestyle leaves little room for Christ. When there is no room for Christ in our lives, frustration is guaranteed. In the end there is only one way to live as a Christian – complete commitment to Christ. Not 50%, 75%, 90% or even 99%. Only 100% will do. You know better than anyone where you fall on the scale. To reach 100% requires an intentional commitment on your part to stop striving based on personal abilities and to trust that God will bring His plans to fruition in His timing. In this series we continue our focus on *abiding in Christ by understanding who He was, who He is, and who He calls us to be.*

Supporting Scriptures

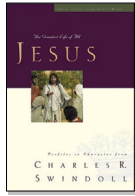
Read the following Scripture passages and consider the questions listed below.

1. Numbers 13:30 – 14:12, 36-38 (the Israelite spies in the Promised Land)
2. Hebrews 4:1-11 (the promise of entering rest)

Questions for Consideration

Read the description of the striver on pages 93-94 and answer the following questions:

1. Consider the description of the striver on pages 93-94 and answer the following questions.
 - a. **Strivers:** What is your earliest memory where you recognized you were a striver? Throughout your life, what joys and frustrations have resulted from your being a striver?
 - b. **Non-strivers:** More than likely you are married to or know a striver. What frustrates you most with the striver? When you have prayed for the strivers in your lives, what have you prayed for them?
2. God’s eternal desire for Israel was to rest in Him. We certainly see this in the Numbers 13-14 passage. What were the consequences of Israel not trusting in God as they explored the Promise Land? What would have been the outcome had they trusted in the Lord?
3. In Hebrews 4 it would seem that the concept of the Sabbath is *to be lived, not just observed*.
 - a. What makes *resting in the Lord* so difficult?
 - b. In our lives what does it look like to rest in the Lord? How can we tell when we are doing this correctly?
4. On pages 100-101 we see that **Hearing + Believing = Resting**. Belief in God requires “correct knowledge” and “right attitude.” What do these phrases mean to you?
5. The enemies of the Sabbath rest are listed on pages 104-105 as *presumption, panic, and pride*. The common thread for all three enemies is unbelief. What are some practical steps that we can all take to ensure that these three enemies do not rear their ugly heads in our own lives?



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Week #4 (Chapter Eight) *The Astonishing Power of Jesus*

Main Idea

While much of the world recognizes Jesus as a great teacher, many people are either dismissive or ignorant of the tremendous power that He had. Jesus through the power of God had control over everything from life to nature, a further validation of His claim as the Messiah and being the second member of the Trinity. This lesson explores seven miraculous powers of Jesus validating that He was exactly who He claimed to be and uniquely qualified to be Savior.

Deep Thoughts

As Believers the hallmark of our lives should be belief in the impossible. Many of us have seen firsthand what only God can do as we have observed in our own lives the orchestration of His will in accomplishing His purposes. What we observe in the life of Jesus is a calmness and confidence in God that only comes from One who has complete faith in the work of the Lord. In this, as in so many other ways, Jesus modeled for us what God can do in the life of one completely committed to Him. In a sermon several years ago Cypress Bible Church pastor, Dave Gibson, commented that "God's desire is that we be involved in pursuits that are destined to fail without his involvement." How involved are you in pursuits that are destined to fail without His involvement? See the world through the eyes of Christ; not through your eyes or those of the discouraging world around us. In this series we continue our focus on abiding in Christ by understanding who He was, who He is, and who He calls us to be.

Supporting Scriptures John 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 20.

Questions for Consideration

1. Consider and read the appropriate Scripture for each of the miracles listed below and answer the following questions in relation to each miracle.
 - a) How did this particular miracle demonstrate the deity of Jesus?
 - b) How were lives changed by the miracles of Jesus?
 - Power over the trivial (John 2:7-11 Changing water into wine)
 - Power over distance (John 4:43-54 Healing the Official's son)
 - Power over time (John 5:1-15 Healing the invalid)
 - Power over insufficiency (John 6:1-15 Feeding the five thousand)
 - Power over nature (John 8:22-25 Calms the storm)
 - Power over tragedy (John 9:3-7 Healing the blind man at the Pool of Siloam)
 - Power over death (John 11:39-44 Raising Lazarus from the dead)
2. On page 117 Dr. Swindoll makes the following statement about challenges in our lives: *The size of a challenge should never be measured by what we have to offer... God's invitation is simple: You take care of the addition; I'll be in charge of the multiplication.* As you consider the future, what is the greatest challenge that lies before you? Where does God fit in your thoughts in addressing potential sources of discouragement in our lives?
3. John 20:30-31 references the miracles of Jesus not recorded in the Bible. Why do you think Jesus chose to do so many miracles as part of his earthly ministry?
4. As you move forward this week, consider the events in your life and God's plans for you. Are you in need of a miracle? Are you holding back in your commitment to Christ because you do not believe that He can really deliver on His promises?

Next Meeting Time: Tuesday, March 4. Read Chapters 9 and 10 in *Jesus, The Greatest Life of All* in preparation.